

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

U.S. offers cash for information on Saddam

by Pauline Jelinek

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Pentagon will pay rewards of up to \$200,000 for information on the whereabouts of leaders from Saddam Hussein's toppled regime and its hidden weapons, defense officials said Tuesday.

In addition to cash payments, U.S. forces in Iraq also can give food, basic necessities and other incentives to encourage Iraqi citizens to "provide information and other assistance ... including the delivery of dangerous personnel and weapons," said Defense Department spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Barbara Burfeind.

With major Iraqi fighting forces defeated, American troops have been focusing on trying to eliminate remaining pockets of resistance, finding key regime leaders and building up programs for the distribution of humanitarian aid.

Officers in the field may authorize rewards of up to \$2,500, and the

war commander, Gen. Tommy Franks, can authorize up to \$50,000. Rewards beyond that - up to the \$200,000 limit - must be approved by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Burfeind said.

The program is similar to one used in Afghanistan, where the United States offered a multimillion dollar reward for information on Osama bin Laden, who has yet to be found, and his al-Qaida terrorist network. It was unclear when the program started in Iraq.

"There is a rewards program that's out there for information that would lead to the capturing or even clarifying the condition of those leaders and others," Brig Gen. Vincent Brooks told a news conference earlier Tuesday at command headquarters in Qatar.

"People that have knowledge of the weapons of mass destruction program ... may be rewarded if they provide information about that

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Major Gen. Stanley McChrystal briefs reporters on progress in the war with Iraq during a news conference at the Pentagon Monday, April 14, 2003. He said Iraqi fighters have not mounted "a coherent defense" and major combat there is essentially over. (AP Photo/Dennis Cook)

Coalition focuses on pockets of resistance

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2003 – The focus of coalition operations in Iraq is on eliminating remaining pockets of resistance, said U.S. Central Command officials during a briefing in Qatar today.

Coalition forces are also looking for regime leaders and are increasing the military contributions to humanitarian assistance operations, said Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the deputy chief of operations at the command.

“Coalition maneuver operations remain focused on increasing security in urban areas throughout Iraq, while assessing and addressing humanitarian need,” Brooks said.

The work of clearing sectors of Baghdad and Tikrit continued. Coalition troops regularly have found large caches of weapons and stockpiles with the assistance of the Iraqi people.

Brooks said 5th Corps forces found a cache of 90 cases of dynamite, plastique explosives, six homemade bombs and 23 cases of rocket-propelled grenades in Baghdad. “Then they were led by Iraqi people in the area to 10 smaller caches of weapons in the area,” he said.

The general said coalition forces are still in conversations with former regime commanders to seek any “final surrenders” that they may make. “These are not large pockets of military resistance,” Brooks said. “The military capability throughout Iraq has been destroyed or has simply walked away.”

Special operations forces are expanding security in northern Iraq cities of Mosul, Irbil and Kirkuk. Brooks said the northern oil fields are secure and that the last burning well in Iraq was extinguished.

The general said cooperation with Iraqis is enhancing operations. In the western part of the country, Iraqis led coalition forces to three death squad members, he said, and looting and lawlessness have died down throughout the country.

The Iraqi people have gone beyond celebrating their safety to working with the coalition to repair the infrastructure, their government and public works in their country, Brooks said. He named a number of activities – from repairing power plants and water systems to setting up local civilian councils and police departments – where the Iraqis are moving toward ensuring their own safety and security.

Brooks said the coalition maritime component is working to open the channel, blocked by 36 derelict vessels, from Umm Qasr to Az Zubayr.

“Each one of (the vessels) has to be examined, removed of any demolitions or unexploded ordnance, cleared for mines ... and physically moved to clear the channel into Az Zubayr,” he said. Opening the channel will help the logistics situation in the country much, Brooks noted.

The general said coalition is working closely with the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance. ORHA, a U.S. interagency group led by retired Army Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, is working

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U.S. says all oil well fires in Iraq snuffed out

AS SAYLIYA CAMP, Qatar (Reuters) - The U.S. military said on Tuesday that the last blazing oil well in Iraq has been snuffed out.

“All the oilfields still remain secure in the north and the oil well fire I reported yesterday (in the northern Kirkuk field) has been extinguished,” Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks told a briefing at Central Command in Qatar.

“At this point, there are no burning oil wells in Iraq.”

The well fire in the giant Kirkuk field started before the war began on March 20 and was caused by human error, not sabotage.

In Iraq’s Rumaila oilfield in the south, Iraqi forces set fewer than 10 wellheads alight — the last of which was doused out on Monday.



The U.S. military said April 15, 2003 that the last blazing oil well in Iraq has been snuffed out. An oil well sends a plume of smoke into the evening sky north west of Kirkuk, April 10.

Families gear up for return of POWs

by Leslie Hoffman

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. (AP) - The daily vigil in front of the TV set has ended happily for the former POWs' families and friends. Now, the talk is of the joyous reunions to come and the celebrations to plan.

Like hometowns for the six other former POWs picked up Sunday by U.S. forces, Alamogordo plans parades, cheers and hero's welcomes for Army Spc. Joseph Hudson.

"I think a parade would be great idea," Mayor Don Carroll said. "People are already talking about it. It's just a matter of figuring out when they're coming home."

The seven former prisoners were rescued Sunday by U.S. forces on the road to Tikrit, Iraq, and are now in Kuwait. The military has not said when they will be flying home.

Light poles along the main street of Hudson's hometown are adorned by yellow ribbons, and many business marquees carry messages of thanks and encouragement for American troops.

"It's huge," said Peter Schmidt, a Dairy Queen owner who wants to help pitch in for a celebration. "For him to have gone through what he did and serve our country the way he did - we want to honor him."

At the Alamogordo Wal-Mart, there's been a rush on American flag pins and yellow ribbons. "I've seen everybody picking them up," said Diego Casillas, an assistant manager.

Students at the elementary school across the street from the Hudson home changed a sign on the fence that had read "We're praying for Joseph" to "Welcome back, Joseph Hudson."

"Okey-dokey," Anecita Hudson said when asked how she was faring amid the commotion and celebration. Still, she was clearly exhausted, taking time for extended naps and gingerly walking from one celebration to another.

Another former POW, Army Sgt. James Riley, might not be so pleased to become the star of a parade, firework display and community celebration being discussed in Pennsauken, N.J.

Riley's family said he is so private that he doesn't like it when his mother snaps a photograph of him, let alone the news photographers and videographers he'll undoubtedly face when he comes home.

Maj. Nathan Banks, the military's liaison to Riley's family, said Riley and the other POWs will be taken to Washington's Walter Reed Medical Center, and will be released according to their health conditions.

The joy for U.S. Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson, 30, spread as far as Panama. Although she has never returned to the country since emigrating to the United States with her family at age 6, excitement at the rescue was infectious. "Miracle!" read one headline;

"Shoshana Lives!" read another.

When 19-year-old Pfc. Jessica Lynch returns to Palestine, W.Va., she'll get more than just a party. College scholarships, a trip to Hawaii, new cars and cash are just some of the gifts waiting for the former POW rescued April 1.

Relatives can't wait for the soldiers to come home.

Hudson's wife, Natalie, and his 19-year-old brother, Anthony, were briefed by military officials at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the two plan to travel to meet the former POW before he returns to New Mexico.

Packed among her things for the reunion, Natalie said, is a blue teddy bear that she bought after their 5-year-old daughter, Cameron, suggested it. Blue is Joseph's favorite color.

She said officials gave them information about what Hudson will undergo as a returning prisoner of war. That includes a military debriefing and the mental and emotional process of reintegration after the trauma of being held prisoner, she said.

When Chief Warrant Officer David Williams gets home, his wife will be waiting to listen. Michelle Williams finally heard her husband's voice Sunday over the phone at her home in Killeen, Texas.

"I was so teary, he probably didn't understand anything I said," she said. After a few minutes, their voices calmed one another and her husband began to tell of his ordeal.

"And I said, 'Sweetie, you don't have to tell me anything,'" she said. "'When you're really ready to talk, when we can be together, you can talk. I'm hear to listen.'"

Meanwhile, Army Pfc. Patrick Miller's sister removed a sign Monday from the front of her Wichita, Kan., house requesting prayers for the POWs, but said she would leave the yellow ribbon tied around a tree.

"We're so happy we'll get him back," she said. "But we're going to leave it there until all the POWs actually get back to their families."



Army Sgt. James Riley, 31, is shown in this undated family handout photo. Riley is among seven American POWs released Sunday, April 13, 2003, in relatively good condition after 22 days of captivity. (AP Photo/Riley family, HO)



Residents walk past United States Marines as smoke from a fire billows in the background after passing a checkpoint on the bridge leading into Tikrit, Iraq Tuesday April 15, 2003. United States Marines started allowing residents to return to the city. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

Coalition focuses on pockets of resistance continued

to help organize Iraq to turn the country over to the Iraqi people.

“For now, the way the work goes is through CENTCOM and the coalition land component command,” Brooks said. “In time we’ll transfer some activities to ORHA. At an even further time those activities will be transferred to the Iraqi people by way of an interim administration.”

Coalition officials remain convinced that they will find weapons of

mass destruction in Iraq. Brooks said as stability becomes more widespread, more people will come forward with information on these weapons.

Coalition forces have people at units to assess the dangers and test for the weapons. Levels above the units will confirm the presence of these weapons. Brooks said this is a long and involved process and the military will approach this problem carefully.



Secretary of State Colin Powell gestures during a press conference with Kuwait Foreign Minister Mohammed Sabah after the two met at the State Department in Washington Monday April 14, 2003. Powell, referring to Syria’s alleged harboring of former Iraqi government officials, said “We believe in light of this new environment, they should review their actions and their behavior, not only with respect to who gets haven in Syria and weapons of mass destruction but especially the support of terrorist activity.” (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Rumsfeld submits report calling for sweeping changes

by Michael Kilian, Chicago Tribune, European Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Monday submitted to Congress a sweeping proposal for reforming the American military that would rewrite Pentagon retirement and retention rules and abolish practices that have governed the military for generations.

The 204-page document also would increase the secretary's authority to eliminate reports to Congress and waive rules that interfere with military readiness.

The package of reforms, titled the "Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act," would increase senior officers' retirement age, push some military jobs into the private sector and exempt the Defense Department from environmental laws the secretary considered an impediment to readiness.

Rumsfeld appeared to be taking advantage of the success of the Iraq war to push reforms that have been fiercely resisted by Pentagon brass and their allies in Congress since the beginning of the Bush administration.

Rumsfeld has argued for restructuring the U.S. defense establishment to make it lighter and more flexible. He contends the military still is configured for fighting a major conflict in Europe with the defunct Soviet Union, rather than for the more rapid and long-range kind of warfare the U.S. has been waging in Iraq.

As he said last month at a Defense Department town meeting, "The attacks of Sept. 11 make transforming the department even more urgent," because the military is not designed "to fight the shadowy terrorists and terrorist networks that operate with the support and assistance of terrorist states."

Rumsfeld submitted his plan at a time when the Pentagon high command is busy with the Iraq war, the nation is preoccupied with that conflict and Congress has gone out of town for a two-week spring recess.

Spokesmen for the Senate and the House Armed Services Committees said there would be no official response to the document until it had been studied carefully. Rumsfeld asked that the legislative package be adopted as part of this year's defense authorization bill.

One controversial provision of the proposal would remove the four-year time limit for generals and admirals serving in top leadership positions, including chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, chief of naval operations, Army chief of staff, Marine Corps commandant and Air Force chief of staff. It would also allow less senior officers to remain in command positions for longer periods of time.

"I think that the United States armed forces make a terrible mistake by having so many permanent changes of station, by having so many people skip along at the tops of the waves in a job and serve in it 12, 15, 18, 24 months and be gone," Rumsfeld said in a speech to the Reserve Officers Association in January. "When somebody does that, they spend the first six months saying hello to everybody, the

next six months trying to learn the job and the last six months leaving."

There has been deep-seated opposition to that change because of fears in the officer ranks that it would mean a slower rate of promotion and stagnation in lesser positions.

As compensation, the proposal would allow some high-ranking officers to retire early without loss of benefits. It also would eliminate limits on the number of generals and admirals the services could have at various pay grades.

Another provision would reorganize the reserves and National Guard into separate job classifications for assignments that could require long deployments on active duty and those that would only require reservists to attend weekend meetings and two weeks' training in the summer.

"The reality is people in the (National) Guard do in fact have jobs and are not signed up to be full time," Rumsfeld said. "They're signed up to be part time. They're signed up to be helpful when needed."

More than 200,000 reserve and National Guard troops have been called up from civilian life to active duty for the Iraq war, and some have been facing deployments exceeding a year.

Rumsfeld's plan would allow reserve and National Guard generals and admirals to serve until age 68 and allow some designated by the defense secretary to serve until 72.

It also would permit generals and admirals and senior enlisted ranks to receive retirement pay greater than 75 percent of their base pay, the current limit.

According to David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, the U.S. armed forces are 31,400 over authorized strength because a "stop loss" hold was put on members preparing to retire or otherwise leave the service during the Iraq emergency.

Rumsfeld is proposing to keep uniformed strength at about 1.5 million but turn over as many as 300,000 jobs now performed by military personnel to outside civilian contractors.

Rumsfeld's plan would also:

- * Authorize the secretary of defense to spend \$200 million to "assist foreign nations whose support is critical to counterterrorism efforts";
- * Empower the secretary to waive laws that require the use of American-made products if they interfere with national security;
- * Enable the Pentagon to award contracts on the basis of quality as well as low cost;

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Shape of coalition forces will change as war winds down

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2003 –As the war in Iraq winds down, the shape and number of coalition forces in the area will change, DoD officials said during a briefing in the Pentagon.

Two carrier battle groups centered around the USS Constellation and Kitty Hawk will leave the area, Navy officials said today. This still leaves three carrier battle groups in the region: the USS Nimitz, Harry S. Truman and Theodore Roosevelt.

In addition, coalition commander Army Gen. Tommy Franks is looking at ground-based air assets, now that the need for strike aircraft has diminished, said Army Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, vice chief of operations on the Joint Staff.

McChrystal said that while land combat power is needed in Iraq, over time the mix of land forces will change. He said that as more and more of the country becomes stable, more military civil affairs specialists, engineers and military police will be needed.

But for now, coalition forces are still rooting out the remnants of the regime, most notably in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. "The regime is at its end and its leaders are either dead, surrendered or on the run," said Pentagon spokeswoman Torie Clarke.

She said the war has been costly. Since the conflict began 118 American service members have died in the liberation of Iraq. "War is also hazardous for journalists, as we know," Clarke noted.

"At great personal risk many of them have reported the conflict firsthand. We salute these professionals and offer our condolences to their families."

A total of 10 reporters have died covering the conflict: Tareq Ayyoub, Al-Jazeera; David Bloom, NBC; José Couso, Telecinco; Kaveh Golestan, a free-lancer; Michael Kelly, Atlantic Monthly and Washington Post; Christian Liebig, Focus; Terry Lloyd, ITV News; Paul Moran, free-lancer; Julio Anguita Parrado, El Mundo; and Taras Protsyuk, Reuters.

Clarke also gave a report on progress in the eight objectives set for the war. The first was to eliminate the regime of Saddam Hussein. Most of the country is now free of the regime's influence.

The second objective was to capture, kill or drive out terrorists and terrorist organizations sheltering in Iraq. Clarke said with the fall of Saddam, terrorists lost their largest state sponsor.

The third objective was to collect intelligence on terrorist networks. She said that as stability returns, Iraqis are coming to the coalition with information on these groups. Military intelligence personnel are also sorting through captured papers for information.

Fourth and fifth are to collect intelligence on weapons of mass destruction and to oversee their destruction. "We've begun the long process of exploring sites, sifting through documents and encouraging Iraqis to come forward with information," Clarke said.

Sixth is to secure Iraqi oil fields. Coalition forces secured the Southern oil fields soon after entering the country on March 19, and coalition special operations forces, supported by conventional forces, secured the northern oil fields around Tikrit last week.

The seventh goal is to end the U.N. sanctions against Iraq and begin sending humanitarian aid to the country. Clarke said President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have asked the United Nations to rescind the sanctions imposed following the 1991 Gulf War. Clarke said aid from any number of countries is beginning to flow into Iraq.

Finally, the eighth goal was to help the Iraqi people establish a representative government that does not threaten its neighbors. "We are working with clerics, tribal leaders and ordinary Iraqis," she said. "Many will meet tomorrow in An Nasiriyah to discuss the future of Iraq and the Iraqi interim authority."

Rumsfeld submits report calling for sweeping changes continued

- * Remove limits on the size of the staff in the defense secretary's office;

- * Streamline the defense secretary's ability to spend money on the missile defense program;

- * Eliminate the requirement for the Defense Department to make periodic reports to Congress on a host of issues (the list covers about 100 pages), including the state of the B-1 bomber, which Rumsfeld contends has proved itself in combat.



An Iraqi police officer reports for duty at the Palestine Hotel, where Marines are recruiting Iraqis who can help restore order and services in Baghdad. "I want to protect the people, not the government," an officer said. (Sun photo by John Makely)

Stryker brigade completes training at NTC

FORT IRWIN, Calif. (Army News Service, April 14, 2003) — The Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team ended several weeks of rigorous day and night training in California's Mojave Desert April 11, and now is preparing for an exercise in Louisiana next month to certify its operational readiness.

"We're on track," said Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano, commander of I Corps and Fort Lewis, Wash., home of the SBCT — 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. "The training went very well and the SBCT learned a lot.

"I'm pleased with the progress, and I'm pleased with the leadership of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team," Soriano said. "The training was very intense," he added.

After observing training during "Arrowhead Lightning I" at Fort Irwin's National Training Center, Soriano said that he was confident of the Stryker brigade's capabilities.

"We've got a capability that we've never had before," Soriano said. "The Stryker Brigade is very quick, very agile, very responsive, and its situational awareness is the best I've ever seen. Previously, the way we fought, as a maneuver force, was move to contact, make contact, and then maneuver on the enemy. Now, we can maneuver first and make contact with the enemy at a time and place of our choosing. Our soldiers will have the advantage."

Arrowhead Lightning I required 3rd Brigade to conduct mid-to-high-intensity combat operations against NTC's opposing force. The brigade executed missions such as clearing zones, attack and defense. Designed to operate in a 50-by-50-kilometer area, considerably larger than traditional infantry brigades, the Stryker Brigade made full use of its speed, agility, enhanced situational awareness, and intelligence-gathering assets to operate throughout an extended battlespace.



Soldiers with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment rush into their Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle so they can move into attack position in the "box" at the National Training Center. (photo by Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson).

The National Training Center provides tough, realistic, combined arms training for brigades in a mid-to-high intensity environment, officials said, while retaining the training feedback and analytical focus at battalion level. NTC also provides a data source for training, doctrine, organization, and equipment improvements. The 3rd Brigade will use this feedback to continue to further its capabilities, its leaders said.

The brigade is now better prepared for exercise "Arrowhead Lightning II" May 18 at JRTC, Fort Polk, La., Soriano said, where the soldiers will experience a different environment and terrain.

"This is the best decision we ever made bringing them out here to the National Training Center and getting them ready to go to JRTC," Soriano said. "They will be better prepared to operate throughout a full range of operations and leverage their full capabilities."



U.S. Marines man a checkpoint in the center of the northern Iraqi town of Tikrit, Tuesday April 15, 2003. U.S. tanks and troops moved through the streets of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit after overpowering Iraqi troops Monday, but the anger and loyalty of its residents was not easily overcome. (AP Photo/ Lefteris Pitarakis)

Army system tracking 2,100 deployed civilians

by Bruce Anderson

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 14, 2003) - More than 2,100 civilians are now deployed in support of contingency operations around the world, and the Army's new automated civilian tracking system, CIVTRACKS, is keeping track of their location.

CIVTRACKS maintains data on employees such as their deployed location, the operations being supported, dates of deployment and redeployment, and information on who is entering the data.

The deployed civilians being tracked by the system include nearly 900 Army employees and more than 1,200 non-Army employees, such as contractors, Red Cross employees and AAFES workers, Feagins said.

The Army implemented CIVTRACKS May 31, 2002, to overcome a need that was identified after Desert Storm, Feagins said.

CIVTRACKS was designed primarily to capture data on deployed Army Appropriated Fund and Non-appropriated Fund employees and Red Cross employees, Feagins said. He said the system now also is being used to track deployed contractors and deployed employees from other Department of Defense agencies.

If some health hazard is determined to be associated with a specific deployment, Feagins said the tracking system helps the Army know who was in the area at the time in question.

The program is Web-based, and allows input of the tracking data

from any location where there is Internet access. Employees must log onto a Web site and input data each time they change duty location during the deployment. This requirement includes the initial move from the employee's home station.

Officials at the employee's home station, the Continental United States Replacement Center and the deployed location are required to ensure the input of data into CIVTRACKS, Feagins said.

The employee's home station is required to give the employee a logon userID and password for the system. Deploying personnel may receive a wallet-size deployment card with their CIVTRACKS userID, password and related instructions.

Deployment cards should also be available at the CRC and in theaters of operations for employees already deployed. An alternate source for the same information printed on the cards is the Army Knowledge On-line Web site. The information is posted in the AKO Collaboration Center, under the "Civilian Personnel" Community.

CIVTRACKS generates a number of standard reports based on the inputted data. The reports allow officials at the major commands and higher to see the data sorted by country, operation or MACOM.

The Army's long-term plan for the system includes using the Common Access Card as the input tool, Feagins said. Eventually, he said, employees will be able to swipe their card upon departure from one location and upon arrival at the next. The swipe of the card should cause the transmission of all the required information back to a centralized, headquarters Department of Army database.



U.S. Army Spc. Micki Nixon, right, and Ssg. Ronnie Lafferty sit atop their Bradley fighting vehicle while infantrymen search for weapons in Baghdad, Iraq Tuesday, April 15, 2003. Nixon is from Jacksonville, FL. and Lafferty from Burlington, N.C. and both are with the A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment. (AP Photo/John Moore)

Kuwait delivering aid to Iraqis, hoping to find POWs

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2003 — Kuwait is providing “significant humanitarian assistance” to Iraq while still hoping to recover its prisoners of war from Saddam Hussein’s 1990 invasion.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today that the government of Kuwait has worked with the United Kingdom to build a pipeline into Iraq that is now delivering 2 million liters of fresh water a day.

Kuwaiti relief organizations are providing food and medicine to several Iraqi cities, and that country has set up a humanitarian operations center “to serve as a focal point for funneling aid into Iraq,” the secretary told reporters outside the Pentagon.

At the same time, Kuwait wants to step up efforts to find some 600 prisoners of war it maintains Iraq still has from its 1990 occupation of Kuwait. One American, Navy pilot Michael Scott Speicher, is still unaccounted for from the 1991 Gulf War, as well.

Rumsfeld said the POW issue is one that Kuwait and the United States “share as a deep concern and an abiding interest.” He was speaking in a joint press conference following lunch with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah at the Pentagon.

Rumsfeld assured al-Sabah the United States is working to “pursue every conceivable lead,” he said, adding that now that Hussein’s regime is deposed, Iraqi citizens may come forward with information.

“As we enter this phase of the Iraqi Freedom operations, and that is the stabilization phase, the issue of the POWs becomes paramount,” al-Sabah said.

He also thanked the administration for its efforts to “deliver the Iraqis from bondage.” The minister described Iraq as a country that had been “kidnapped” for 35 years.

“The Iraqi regime, Saddam’s regime, has basically destroyed, ruptured the very fabric of the Iraqi society,” he said when asked about the potential for civil unrest in Iraq. “Decent people have been tortured, killed and exiled. It would take a long time, I think, some time for the healing process to take a hold in Iraq.”

Still, al-Sabah added, it’s up to the Iraqis now “to settle down and to form their own government.”

Regarding Syria, Rumsfeld said the United States has seen chemical weapons tests in that country “over the past 12 (to) 15 months.” He also said intelligence reports show Syria has allowed fighters to cross that country’s border with Iraq. Other evidence shows Syria



Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Minister Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld walk past a U.S. military honor guard on their way into the Pentagon April 14. Rumsfeld and al-Sabah discussed Kuwait’s humanitarian assistance to Iraq and the 600 Kuwait prisoners of war still unaccounted for after Iraq’s 1990 invasion. Defense Department photo by Helene Stikkel.

has allowed Iraqis into Syria, “in some cases to stay, in some cases to transit.”

The secretary described Syrians crossing the Iraqi border “carrying leaflets indicating that they’ll be rewarded if they kill Americans and members of the coalition.”

Rumsfeld’s comments on Syria echo those made earlier by Secretary of State Colin Powell in a separate press conference with al-Sabah.

“We are concerned that Syria has been participating in the development of weapons of mass destruction, ... specifically of chemical weapons,” Powell said. “And we believe, in light of this new environment, they should review their actions and their behavior – not only with respect to whom gets haven in Syria and weapons of mass destruction, but especially the support of terrorist activity.”

In his earlier press conference, Powell described a meeting to be held in Nasiriyah, Iraq, April 15 to discuss the future of that country. He said that this “first of many meetings” will be led by U.S. ambassadors Zal Khalilzad, the president’s personal representative to Iraq, and Ryan Crocker, the former ambassador to Kuwait.

Powell called the meeting “a good start” and said it would reflect the views of Iraqi expatriates who have been working for the country’s liberation from outside Iraq and “those that are now free inside” Iraq.

Third ACR arrives in Kuwait

Prepared for combat, unit accepts peacekeeping and rebuilding missions

by Mark D. Faram, Army Times staff writer

A KUWAITI PORT — As combat winds down in Iraq, new Army units arriving in Kuwait are gearing up for roles in peacekeeping and rebuilding the country, torn by decades of war and neglect.

Soldiers and civilians here today began offloading ships arriving with the nearly 800 tanks, truck and helicopters of the Colorado Springs-based 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The nearly 5,000 soldiers of the 3rd ACR, most of them already in Kuwait, normally train for “closing with and killing the enemy,” said Capt. Bren Workman, regiment spokesman. However, the regiment is preparing for a “stabilization” role in Iraq and expects to operate with a contingent of civil affairs soldiers, Workman said.

He would not quantify how many civil affairs soldiers would work with the regiment, but said it was an unusually large number. Civil affairs troops are specialists in building relationships in communities that have been through war or other strife. The specialists’ work will start immediately on entry into Iraq, Workman said. They will broadcast Arab-language messages through loudspeakers, telling the locals how to stay safe, reassuring them that the American mission is to help them and otherwise lay the groundwork to convert to peacekeeping operations.

U.S. offers cash for information on Saddam continued

program,” he said, adding the reward program also covers information about terrorist activities inside Iraq.

Though at least a few senior Iraq figures have been captured or have surrendered, officials have not said how many they hold.

On the question of weapons, President Bush’s reason for going to war in Iraq was to disarm Saddam of chemical and biological weapons that the administration says he has. Saddam has denied he has them. Bush also has said he feared Saddam would give those weapons to terrorists.

U.S. officials have not announced finding any chemical or biological weapons so far and say they have numerous possible hiding places they want to check. Although U.S. troops have uncovered several suspected chemical or biological weapons sites, some have turned out to be such things as explosives and pesticides. Tests on others are pending.

And U.S. forces haven’t yet found any evidence linking Saddam’s regime with al-Qaida, a senior defense official said Monday.

American officials also are interested in clues to the identities and whereabouts of members of Saddam’s Baath Party, Iraqi intelligence agents and other Saddam loyalists.

Brooks said, for instance, that special operations forces captured three paramilitary members from Saddam’s Baath Party in western

“We want our presence, wherever we end up, to be seen as a stabilization force, a friendly force that allows the townspeople to reconstruct their country,” Workman said.

Peacekeeping operations are still fresh in the minds of the regiment, which served in 1999 as part of the stabilization force in Bosnia. Almost two in every 10 soldiers still serving with the regiment have peacekeeping experience.

“We have that track record and we have those lessons learned, so we think we’re in a very good position to turn to execute what we’re going to be asked to do here,” he said. “We have learned to tread lightly and deal with people who had concerns with the U.S. forces being in their country in 1999. “We’re going to encounter the same type of concerns with the locals here and we will use our civil affairs assets to reassure that we are there to stabilize the area and not take over.”

After offloading the 3rd ACR’s equipment, the soldiers will have to get it all in working order and ready for battle — combat is still a possibility. Getting the gear ready could take several weeks. The 3rd ACR is designed to be its own, self-supporting unit as it isn’t attached to a division and must operate separately.

“We’re designed to operate on our own and be the eyes and ears of a corps commander,” Workman said.

Iraq after they were led to them by the local population.

Asked what the price is on Saddam’s head, Brooks said, “There is no specific price tag that I’m aware of. And I doubt that there will be a specific price tag.”



A shoe rests on top of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein’s head taken from a statue with a Star of David drawn on his forehead in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday April 15, 2003. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

Top instructor jumps at high incentive

Staff sergeant represents school in tandem with Golden Knights

By Spec. Evan Morrow, Redstone Rocket, Staff writer

Military and civilian personnel descended on Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., for the Golden Knights Tandem Jump Incentive Program, March 3-7.

The tandem jump incentive program was designed to not only help the Army Parachute Team's jumpmasters train for the upcoming air show and demonstration season, but also to reward soldiers operating under the Training and Doctrine Command, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, and Cadet Command umbrellas. Recruiters of the year, instructors of the year, soldiers and drill Sergeants of the year all had priority for selection.

"There were seven in my original group. We were told we could do as many or as few jumps as we wanted during our stay. Five jumps were slated for Monday through Friday," SSgt. Sheldon Travick, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School Instructor of the Year for 2002, said.

Nine Golden Knights, ranging from sergeant major to sergeant, were involved in the jump. They had prepared a briefing for all the participants that was augmented by a video.

"The Golden Knights acted in a very professional and accommodating manner in terms of welcoming the participants on board the program and making us feel that we were a part of the team," Travick said.

The first of the two jumps on opening day was 1:30 p.m. The jumps were captured on video and through stills by a photography team. "The first one was a little scary, but the second one went down much more smoothly. I almost hyperventilated from yelling so much on the way down the first time," Travick said.

On the second day, the first jump was 3:30 p.m. for a new group of seven jumpers. On the third day, another group of jumpers arrived. Travick went along on a media flight and took pictures as they jumped out. He jumped again at 3:30 p.m.

By the fifth jump that Friday, he was the only one from his original group of seven. "The jumps were getting progressively more enjoyable," Travick said. "The last few were out of sight. The surroundings were beautiful. There were palm trees and mountains as a backdrop, and the weather stayed clear and about 70-75 degrees.



GERONIMO— OMEMS instructor SSgt. Sheldon Travick, bottom, and SFC Billy Van Saol of the Golden Knights are earthbound after leaving aircraft.

Overall, it was a new experience and a positive one that everyone should get involved in if and when they get the opportunity."

Travick was the first OMEMS soldier to participate in this incentive program.

He joined the Army Reserves March 24, 1986, graduated basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and completed advanced individual training as a food service specialist. Travick enlisted for active duty in July 1987, and served as a cook for three years before re-enlisting and reclassifying into his current specialty of Integrated Family of Test Equipment operator/maintainer. He has been at Redstone Arsenal since 1999, and is assigned to the NCO Academy as Basic NCO Course instructor.

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As the Iraq war goes on, Afghan violence increases

by Carlotta Gall, The New York Times

SANGEEN, Afghanistan, April 11 — It was a good place for an ambush, a natural parapet sticking up from a riverbed within easy firing range of the road, and a warren of gullies providing cover for the getaway. The men who fired on United States Special Forces, killing two instantly and critically wounding a third, chose their spot well, Afghan intelligence officers here said, as they walked over the site.

The gunmen opened up with a machine gun on the last of the four cars on March 29, the Afghans said. The vehicles in front turned at the brow of the hill to return fire. By then, the gunmen had fled.

That Afghan gunmen can stage an effective ambush is no surprise. But the pattern of recent violence and arrests by American forces in southern Afghanistan suggests both that Taliban loyalists are newly active — having laid low here or in neighboring Pakistan for over a year — and that they have had help from local officials who are supposed to be loyal to President Hamid Karzai.

While United States forces have been busy in Iraq, there has been an alarming spate of violence, much of it in southern Afghanistan. Last Friday, Gen. Tommy R. Franks, who is commanding the war in Iraq, took time to visit United States forces at Bagram Air Base outside Kabul. The commander of American forces in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Daniel K. McNeill, and President Karzai have called for greater efforts to catch the killers. General McNeill told The Associated Press he hoped that Pakistan would put more troops on its border to catch “nefarious characters” escaping there.

In Helmand Province, which was always one of the main Taliban strongholds and where anti-American feeling is still strong, American forces are focusing on wealthy or influential Taliban supporters who remain in local power structures.

Last week, they returned here to Sangeen in force, deploying 500 men to search houses and make arrests. Among those detained was the district police chief, who had been host to the Special Forces during their visit here on the day of the ambush.

Another was the brother of a senior aide to the governor of Helmand Province, who had made 12 telephone calls to senior Taliban figures in recent days, according to an Afghan official citing information from American military officials.

Afghan officials said some of the local officials appeared to be victims of false information being fed to the Americans. But the governors of two southern provinces admitted in interviews that former Taliban, who were granted an amnesty by President Karzai, have been actively undermining the government.

“That was a mistake to let them stay,” said Abdul Hai Achakzai, the governor of Farah Province, in southwestern Afghanistan. “We thought, ‘They are Pashtuns, and this is their country also,’ but they took advantage of our leniency. We hope now that we can do what we should have done a year ago. We have started an operation to detain those Taliban who are sitting in their houses and take them

in for questioning.”

After the murder of a Red Cross worker in northern Kandahar last month, Gul Agha Shirzai, the powerful governor of Kandahar, ordered all Taliban to leave his province in 10 days unless their village and tribal elders could guarantee their good behavior. Mr. Shirzai, who has welcomed the American military and international aid agencies, was smarting at the mounting Taliban attacks in an interview last week.

Some of the worst attacks have been in Kandahar, with a bus bomb that killed eight people Jan. 31, and then the shocking execution of the Red Cross engineer on March 27. Fourteen of Mr. Shirzai’s soldiers guarding the American air base have been killed in attacks over recent months. Six more soldiers died in attacks last month on posts near the border, the governor said.

[The violence continued over the weekend when Mr. Shirzai’s son was assaulted in Pakistan, and then his brother was attacked at the border in an ambush that killed a relative and one other person.]

“They are people who were in power for seven years and they were just killing during that time,” Mr. Shirzai said. “They don’t want peace.”

Some local leaders, including Mullah Naqibullah, Mr. Karzai’s original choice for governor of Kandahar, and some officials in the United Nations mission argue that arresting the Taliban leaves them little choice but to take up arms.

Even as they began a crackdown on suspected Taliban supporters in their provinces, police and intelligence officials across the region said the real leaders and paymasters who were behind the campaign of violence were all sheltering in Pakistan.

“Whoever they are, they are not coming themselves to Afghanistan, they are training people and they pay them to come and do those attacks,” said Hajji Muhammad Arif, police chief of the border town of Spinbaldak, the scene of repeated attacks.

The chief of police of Kandahar, Gen. Muhammad Akram Khakrezwal, said three main groups, all based in Pakistan, are behind the recent violence.

One group is clustered around the former Taliban leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar. His main commanders are still with him, including Mullah Dadullah, who claimed responsibility for the roadblock where the Red Cross worker was killed.

A second group has formed around the former Taliban corps commander of Kandahar, Maulavi Akhtar Muhammad Usmani, who, Afghan intelligence officials say, was behind the ambush on the American Special Forces here. He is a close ally of Mullah Omar and is believed to retain very strong links with members of the Pakistan military intelligence service, General Khakrezwal said. Finally there is a group called Jaish-e-Muhammad, led by Akbar Agha, who is known to have been close to Osama bin Laden, he said.

Korea — 50 years ago this week, April 17-23

Returned Red, U.N. POWs complain of mistreatment

by Jim Caldwell

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 15, 2003) — As the Reds and U.N. forces began a formal prisoner-of-war exchange, prisoners on both sides told tales of mistreatment by their captors, 50 years ago this week in Koera.

April 17, 1953 — Communist prisoners throw a barrage of stones at guards at the U.N. prisoner-of-war compound on Yongcho Island. Guards fire at the POWs, killing four and wounding 45.

April 17-20 — The communists launch local attacks against White Horse, Old Baldy, T-Bone and Pork Chop Hills from April 17-20. The heaviest fighting takes place on Pork Chop, where 7th Infantry Division soldiers have to fight man-to-man before they can throw back the Chinese.

The big news this week is the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners between the two sides beginning April 20. The U.N. forces have named the operation Little Switch.

As communist POWs are being bused from Munsan to Panmunjom, many of them begin tearing the new prison uniforms they were given to wear in place of the prison clothing with a large "P" on the back. They want to appear to be in bad shape when they reach the exchange. They also throw away the toilet articles and toothbrushes and toothpaste they were given. Most of them refused to eat breakfast, and as soon as they're back on their side, they complain of being hungry.

U.N. forces are exchanging about 500 enemy POWs each day while receiving 100 allied men daily. On the first day, the U.N. turns over 150 Chinese and 350 North Koreans, which will remain the pattern throughout Little Switch. The United Nations receives 51 South Koreans, 30 Americans, 13 Britons, three Turks and one POW each from Canada, South Africa, Greece and the Philippines.

Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. supreme commander, is present to greet the first group of allied prisoners. The first American he welcomes back is German-born Army Pvt. Carl W. Kirchenhausen of New York.

No Americans are released April 22. By April 23, 79 Americans will be freed. The exchanged South Koreans are taken to hospitals in their country for care, while Americans and most of the other former prisoners are flown to Tokyo where they'll be treated. It's the first stop on the way home.

April 18 — Fifth Air Force announces that American F-86 Sabrejet pilots shot down 18 MiG-15s over the past seven days. One F-86 was shot down in a dogfight, three others were lost to enemy groundfire and six to other causes.

April 19 — U.N. Supreme Command announces the activation of two more South Korean divisions, bringing the number of Republic of Korea divisions to 16. The South Korean Defense Ministry announces that its forces are now capable of manning 85 percent of

the 155-mile-long front.

April 20-23 — The Reds have barely received their soldiers in the prisoner exchange when they crank up their propaganda machine. Both Pyongyang and Peking radios tell of the poor, emaciated conditions of their soldiers. They charge the U.N. Command with brutality in the prison camps and say U.N. officials inflicted horrors upon their prisoners.

Freed allied prisoners have their own terrible stories to tell about how the communists treated them. On April 20, allied stories of conditions in North Korean camps are varied. Some say they were not mistreated, while others say they received no care. Many were forced to attend re-education classes on communist doctrine. Others say conditions improved when armistice talks began July 1951. Conditions varied from then on, depending on whether the communists thought the talks were going in their favor.

They say that there are allies in even worse condition who still remain in the communist prison camps.

On April 21 Sgt. Orville Mullins, Covington, Ky., tells of an August-September 1951 death march north from Pyongyang that lasted 45 to 50 days. Of the 161 POWs that began the ordeal, only he and 60 others survived.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Styles Bridges (R-N.H.) says April 22 that the Defense and State Departments have assured him that evidence is being collected against the communists for possible war crimes trials.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Dewey Short (R-Mo.) urges that new truce talks be delayed until the Reds permit the International Red Cross to inspect camps, just as the U.N. Command does.

By April 23 allied officials realize that all of their soldiers returned by the enemy were captured after the 1950 fighting.

Reporters who interviewed the freed allied prisoners say on April 23 that the prisoners say that at least 1,500 allies were either murdered by their communist captors or died from mistreatment.

April 21 — B-29 Superfortresses bomb a recently repaired airfield at Taechon. The air base is a rest stop for the enemy convoys bringing sick and wounded allied prisoners south for Little Switch. The attack is the closest to the convoy route, which is immune from allied air attacks throughout the prisoner swap.

Air Force fighter-bombers and planes from the Navy carriers Oriskany and Princeton attack enemy positions on the western front the same day.

(Editor's note: Jim Caldwell writes for the TRADOC News Service.)



A photo of Saddam Hussein with a woman who appears to be his wife, Sajida Khairallah Telfah, is seen at a house that U.S. troops searched in an upscale neighborhood of Baghdad. The town house included a mirrored bedroom, lamps shaped like women, airbrushed paintings of a topless blonde woman and a mustached hero battling a crocodile. (AP/John Moore)

Iraqi Shiite Shiekh Iyaad Jamal al-Deen from Nasiriyah, speaks at the opening of the U.S.-sponsored meeting on post-war Iraq Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at the Tallil Air Base, in southern Iraq. The United States convened a meeting of Iraqi opposition groups for the first time since Saddam Hussein's fall to spell out its vision of the initial steps for Iraq's future. (AP Photo, Leila Gorchev, Pool)



A U.S. marine escorts Iraqi police officers outside a Baghdad hospital Tuesday April 15, 2003. A group of Iraqi police joined U.S. marines in providing security for the hospital Tuesday. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)



U.S. Army PFC. Nicholas Myhre holds back a camel as military traffic passes into the presidential palace complex in Baghdad Tuesday, April 15, 2003. The young male camel, which tank crews from A Company 4th Battalion 64 Armor Regiment unknowingly named Josephine, approached them early that morning and stayed. (AP Photo/John Moore)



Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, seen in this image from video, Sunday, April 6, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. He has baffled even Arabs with his bottomless dictionary of insults and bemused the West with his

staunch defense of Saddam Hussein's beleaguered regime. While Iraq's information minister hasn't surfaced in days, he's hardly disappeared, either. On the Internet, his fans – a growing number, by the looks of things – are honoring the man whose skewering of his opponents ranged from the standard infidels to the pop-culture-savvy superpower of Al Capone. (AP Photo/APTN)